



U.S. Department of Justice

Immigration and Naturalization Service

W

PUBLIC COPY

OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS
425 Eye Street N.W.
ULLB, 3rd Floor
Washington, D.C. 20536



FEB 29 2000

File: EAC 99 031 51891 Office: Vermont Service Center

Date:

IN RE: Petitioner:
Beneficiary:



Petition: Petition for a Nonimmigrant Worker Pursuant to Section 101(a)(15)(H)(iii) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, 8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(15)(H)(iii)

IN BEHALF OF PETITIONER: Self-represented

INSTRUCTIONS:

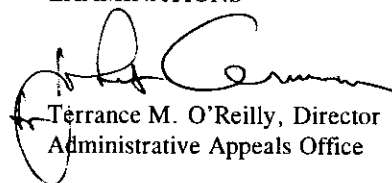
This is the decision in your case. All documents have been returned to the office which originally decided your case. Any further inquiry must be made to that office.

If you believe the law was inappropriately applied or the analysis used in reaching the decision was inconsistent with the information provided or with precedent decisions, you may file a motion to reconsider. Such a motion must state the reasons for reconsideration and be supported by any pertinent precedent decisions. Any motion to reconsider must be filed within 30 days of the decision that the motion seeks to reconsider, as required under 8 C.F.R. 103.5(a)(1)(i).

If you have new or additional information which you wish to have considered, you may file a motion to reopen. Such a motion must state the new facts to be proved at the reopened proceeding and be supported by affidavits or other documentary evidence. Any motion to reopen must be filed within 30 days of the decision that the motion seeks to reopen, except that failure to file before this period expires may be excused in the discretion of the Service where it is demonstrated that the delay was reasonable and beyond the control of the applicant or petitioner. Id.

Any motion must be filed with the office which originally decided your case along with a fee of \$110 as required under 8 C.F.R. 103.7.

FOR THE ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER,
EXAMINATIONS


Terrance M. O'Reilly, Director
Administrative Appeals Office

DISCUSSION: The nonimmigrant visa petition was denied by the Director, Vermont Service Center, and is now before the Associate Commissioner for Examinations on appeal. The appeal will be dismissed.

The petitioner is a community newspaper. It seeks classification of the beneficiary as an editorial assistant trainee for one year. The director determined that the petitioner did not establish that the beneficiary will not engage in productive employment. The director also determined that the petitioner has not provided evidence that the beneficiary would not be working in a position in which citizens and residents are regularly employed.

On appeal, the petitioner states that as an unpaid worker, the beneficiary would not be taking any job away from any U.S. worker. The petitioner also states that its interns are trained by doing.

Section 101(a)(15)(H)(iii) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (the Act), 8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(15)(H)(iii), provides classification to an alien having a residence in a foreign country which he or she has no intention of abandoning who is coming temporarily to the United States as a trainee, other than to receive graduate medical education or training, in a training program that is not designed primarily to provide productive employment.

The regulation at 8 C.F.R. 214.2(h)(7) states, in pertinent part:

(ii) *Evidence required for petition involving alien trainee--*(A) *Conditions.* The petitioner is required to demonstrate that:

(1) The proposed training is not available in the alien's own country;

(2) The beneficiary will not be placed in a position which is in the normal operation of the business and in which citizens and resident workers are regularly employed;

(3) The beneficiary will not engage in productive employment unless such employment is incidental and necessary to the training; and

(4) The training will benefit the beneficiary in pursuing a career outside the United States.

(B) *Description of training program.* Each petition for a trainee must include a statement which:

(1) Describes the type of training and supervision to be given, and the structure of the training program;

(2) Sets forth the proportion of time that will be devoted to productive employment;

(3) Shows the number of hours that will be spent, respectively, in classroom instruction and in on-the-job training;

(4) Describes the career abroad for which the training will prepare the alien;

(5) Indicates the reasons why such training cannot be obtained in the alien's country and why it is necessary for the alien to be trained in the United States; and

(6) Indicates the source of any remuneration received by the trainee and any benefit which will accrue to the petitioner for providing the training.

(iii) *Restrictions on training program for alien trainee.*
A training program may not be approved which:

(A) Deals in generalities with no fixed schedule, objectives, or means of evaluation;

(B) Is incompatible with the nature of the petitioner's business or enterprise;

(C) Is on behalf of a beneficiary who already possesses substantial training and expertise in the proposed field of training;

(D) Is in a field in which it is unlikely that the knowledge or skill will be used outside the United States;

(E) Will result in productive employment beyond that which is incidental and necessary to the training;

(F) Is designed to recruit and train aliens for the ultimate staffing of domestic operations in the United States;

(G) Does not establish that the petitioner has the physical plant and sufficiently trained manpower to provide the training specified; or

(H) Is designed to extend the total allowable period of practical training previously authorized a nonimmigrant student.

The petition indicates that the beneficiary will work 30 hours per week at \$50 per story. The petitioner has not shown that the beneficiary will not be engaged in productive employment beyond that necessary and incidental to the training. The petitioner states the beneficiary will be an unpaid worker. Nevertheless, the training program primarily provides productive employment and the beneficiary will be functioning in a productive capacity.

Furthermore, the petitioner has not provided evidence that the beneficiary would not be working in a position which is in the normal operation of the business and in which citizens and residents are regularly employed. Even though the petitioner states that the beneficiary's position is as an unpaid worker, the position itself is one that is regularly filled by a salaried employee.

This petition cannot be approved for other reasons. The petition indicates that the training the petitioner intends to provide, or similar training, is available in the beneficiary's country. The beneficiary may not be classified as a nonimmigrant trainee, in the absence of a showing that the training is not available in his or her own country and that the purported training is not essentially experience in repetition, review, and practical application of skills. See Matter of Frigon, 18 I&N Dec. 164 (Comm. 1981). No evidence has been presented that such training does not exist in the beneficiary's home country.

The petition also indicates that the beneficiary already has skills related to the training.

Further, the petitioner states that its purpose in enduring interns is to find good employees to hire. A training program which has been designed for the ultimate staffing of the petitioner's domestic operation may not be approved.

In nonimmigrant visa petition proceedings, the burden of proving eligibility for the benefit sought remains entirely with the petitioner. Section 291 of the Act, 8 U.S.C. 1361. The petitioner has not met that burden.

ORDER: The appeal is dismissed.

Identification data deleted to
prevent clearly unwarranted
invasion of personal privacy